

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FROM: Catherine L. Hanaway  
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### **CAPE GIRARDEAU MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM**

October 23, 2007

A Cape Girardeau, Missouri man pled guilty today to unlawful possession of a firearm, announced United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway.

**TORIANO D. PATTERSON**, age 29, pled guilty to one felony count of being a previously convicted felon in possession of a firearm. He appeared before United States District Judge E. Richard Webber.

On August 2, 2007, several officers from the SEMO Drug Task Force executed a search warrant at a residence in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. When the officers arrived at that residence, they encountered Toriano D. Patterson on the front steps of that house. One of the officers observed a Smith and Wesson, 9mm caliber pistol protruding from Mr. Patterson's clothes. That pistol was seized. It was loaded with four rounds in the magazine and one round in the chamber.

Due to Mr. Patterson's previous felony robbery conviction, he is prohibited from possessing firearms and now faces a maximum punishment of ten years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. Sentencing has been set for January 28, 2008.

Hanaway praised the Southeast Missouri Drug Task Force, the Cape Girardeau Police Department, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for their work on the case. Assistant United States Attorney Keith D. Sorrell handled the prosecution for the Government.